

GENERAL RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS BEFORE SPRING APPEARS UNLIKELY

U. S. FAILS TO STOP
BIG WAR CONTRACTS

Continued from First Page.

ended a week ago construction of the plant in Jersey, where Henry Ford was to make Eagle boats. It was to cost from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and was about 40 per cent. completed. The same company has stopped work on a \$20,000,000 Government nitrate plant near Camden, N. J., which was to be a \$400,000 storage building for airplanes in Brooklyn when the contract was cancelled just after the employees struck because overtime had been eliminated. No halt has been called on the construction of the Philadelphia or an Ordnance Department building near Raritan, N. J., which this company is building.

Structural work for the Ordnance Department that is being done by the MacArthur Bros. Company has been cancelled on orders from Washington. The contract is not cancelled. Half of the 6,000 employees are being laid off gradually and are finding other jobs readily.

There is no hint of cessation in connection with the \$35,000,000 army base and the \$1,000,000 naval depot at the Turner Construction Company is building for the Government in South Brooklyn. The army base was to be finished January 1 and the naval base about three-quarters done. On Thursday several thousand workers went on strike at the army base because of overtime, with the "pay and a half" was allowed under the new Government order. So here is a curious case in which men are striking, not for a shorter day but for a longer one.

Gompers Asked to Investigate. Other strikes in the building trades have little direct relation to the end of the war, but are based, union men say, on the "necessity of upholding labor standards in New York city." The carpenters want a continuance of \$1.50 a day.

Business Agent Robert P. Brindell of the Dock Builders Union said yesterday that he "was preparing" to call out 6,500 ship carpenters at the States Island shipyards to-day. He said the strike now affected the pier of the Standard Oil Company at Bayonne, New York Central Railroad at New York and the Port Newark Terminal.

Ernest Bohm, secretary of the Central Federated Union, was instructed to telegraph Samuel Gompers for an investigation of "the general building strike movement in New York city."

Mr. E. W. Bliss, Comptroller of the Treasury, said yesterday that he has normal number of 3,000 workers making shells and torpedoes and expects to continue this work even after peace is signed. The Morse Dry Dock Company is still building ships and converting merchant vessels to transports at the Brooklyn yard.

The Shewan Dry Dock and Repair Company, South Brooklyn, has not found it necessary to drop any of them. At the Tebo Yacht Basin just as many workers as ever are building nine layers and sweepers.

In Queens, where a great deal of war work was concentrated, new work has been practically abandoned and the factories are operating only to finish the material that was in process of making at the time of the signing of the armistice. The owners are waiting to learn from the United States authorities what is to be done with the unfinished part of the contracts. Most firms are convinced that the unfinished part of their contracts will be cancelled and therefore they are planning for future operations along commercial lines.

4,500 Out at Gas Defence Plant.

Up to noon yesterday 5,500 men and women out of 12,000 employed at the Gas Defence plant had been let out. Out of more than 6,000 who had been let out by Friday 1,418 got work before they left the plant from the agencies set up to work by the management; 545 refused jobs that had been offered and 419 refused any assistance in securing future employment. Of this latter number about 30 per cent., according to the management, were women who had gone to work from patriotic motives and who would not seek other employment. A large percentage of the others have gone back to old jobs.

In this plant only the work started before the signing of the armistice is being finished, and as fast as any department ends its work it is closed. It is believed that there will be some departments at work until the middle of December.

The Wright-Martin plant has laid off about 300 mechanics and has almost completely closed down its night shift and is operating upon an eight hour basis. The Gas Defence plant, from the night shift have been taken into the day shift to make up for the shortage created by the reduction of the hours of employment.

The Victor R. Browning plant at College Point, which was making naval gun mounts, has closed down its night force. The Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company has turned its force that was employed on war orders to its regular commercial business and as a result has discharged none. The L. W. P. Engineering Company at College Point, which was making airplanes and engines, has discharged about 800 employees and ended its night shift.

At the United States Employment Service it was said that one of the difficulties encountered by the young men who are being thrown out of work is that under war conditions, and particularly in the Gas Defence plant, they were receiving \$16 and \$18 a week and now \$9 to \$13 is offered to them. All these women subscribed for Liberty bonds in one or more of the drives which they have the payments to make. With the continued high cost of liv-

ing and the payments to the Government they say they can't get along on the smaller wage. Another interesting development is that many women who were brought into the industrial field under the stress of war now desire to continue in employment. The prevailing opinion among the managers of the big industrial plants throughout the Queens district is that there will be few openings for employment from now on until conditions throughout the country become more stabilized and after-war activities are started.

R. E. Gillmor, general manager for the Sperry Gyroscope Company, which makes apparatus for the army and navy, after remarking that "nobody knows what the effect of the war will be," added:

"Unless we are able to divert our business to other lines, such as the mercantile marine, we will have to reduce our staff gradually. We hope that the Government departments will proceed with caution and not cancel contracts hastily, so as to make possible the reconstruction of business."

Mr. Gillmor said he thought wages would not drop.

Robert Gair Optimistic. Robert Gair of the Robert Gair Company, paper goods manufacturers employing 3,000 hands, thought that "the slight depression felt now will disappear with the advent of the new year." He believed that urgent need of our products in Europe would demand America's factories to absorb the returning soldiers and be much the better for such vigorous blood.

The C. Kenyon Company, makers of 15,000 gas masks and thousands of raincoats for the Government, has let out several hundred employees because of termination of war contracts. Henry Kenyon said he thinks, however, that they will be taken back after several months of reorganization. He said the return of the army would be so gradual as to have slight effect on the labor situation.

Speed Up, Is Edison's Advice. Over in Orange, N. J., Thomas A. Edison sent this optimistic letter to his employees:

"I expect to be mustered out of Uncle Sam's service before long, and it will seem mighty good to be back on the old peace job again. What does the first year of peace have in store for us? I have been asked to attempt to answer that question."

"There are those who fear a business depression. The surest way to bring on a depression of business is to nurture fears and act accordingly. The business world of this country must see that employment is provided for our war workers and returning soldiers. There will be opportunities for patriotic service in this connection, and I hope all of you will do your part and encourage others to do likewise. The Government will certainly start us with our Liberty Loan buttons with pride. Let us take equal pride in doing our share to make employment for the men who have worked and fought to win the war."

"Every business man should speed up his production. The men of this country can do more than any one else to keep the wheels of industry turning at full speed. The salesman had to take a back seat during the war, but his time has now come. Give him a chance."

Uniform Making Here Halts.

In Manhattan the clothing trade has felt the hand of peace. Government orders stopping all cutting at once were received by all makers of uniforms on Monday, and in some shops were reinforced by officers from the Quartermaster's department. Personally went to the cutting rooms. All cloth that had been cut is being made into uniforms, but until the industry gets busy on civilian contracts the closing of the cutting departments will in turn affect the sewing end, the mills, the dyeing, the finishing and the kindred occupations.

"The Government order," said William Goldman, "produces a peculiar situation that cannot be fathomed at this time. The expectation in the trade is that a large surplus of help will be thrown upon the market in about two weeks."

"The Government owns all the wool. About 300,000,000 pounds of South American wool is deliverable here next spring and clippings due on the market July 1 will make 200,000,000 pounds more, or 500,000,000 pounds in all. Civilian requirements are about 540,000,000 pounds, so you see there will be a healthy surplus on hand."

England will receive its wool largely from the great Australian surplus. The Central Empires are the only countries in Europe greatly in need of wool with no means of supply. Acting on a suggestion that America's wool be sold at public auction, the Government will have a trial auction of a small amount about December 1.

"Enough uniforms and uniform cloth have been manufactured for any normal necessity of the Government. Suggestions have been made by the Government that some of the surplus cloth be redyed some other color and made into garments for refugee use in the reclaimed countries."

Tool Makers Hit by Truce. According to labor union officers, cancellation of Government orders include stoppage of work on 240,000 army overcoats and 75,000 mackinaws for aviators. The strike of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America for an eight hour day started October 26, two weeks before the armistice was signed.

The New York Merchants Association, through its industrial bureau, is receiving reports from many manufacturers. The machine tool manufacturers with war contracts are having a perceptible slump now. Contracts have not been cancelled, but many will be. The knitting industry reports itself hard hit by the prospect of cancellation, as winter goods for civilians are already made up and it is too early for next year's orders to come in.

tire makers, in the New York district expect a 5 per cent. increase in business. The war's end does not bother them. The brass foundries have not depended on Government work and expect no immediate change. Jewelry manufacture will boom. This industry needs 4,000 skilled workers now and will need 12,000 in the next two months. Silk making, also stopped by the war, offers a chance for many persons driven from war industry. The silk factories generally turned to knit goods, but with the "non-essential" ban removed from silk they will resume the old business and will need to double their forces of employees within the next three months.

More makers report to the Merchants Association that they need help, skilled and unskilled. On the other hand, manufacturers of dies, dies and tools used by tool manufacturers with Government contracts have had their work stopped, and many of their skilled employees have been dismissed, for the time being at least.

Retention of "the high standard of wages established during the war" was voted on Wednesday night at the Hotel McAlpin by the Paper Box Credit Protective Association, representing the paper box manufacturers of this city.

NORTHERN JERSEY
STILL NEEDS MENNewark District's Employers
Expect Prosperity.

Manufacturers in and around Newark look forward with confidence to adjusting peace time industries with labor now employed in the war plants in that district. They do not expect any serious difficulty in effecting the change. This is because of the great diversity of industries in the district, where 275 distinct lines of goods are manufactured.

Claims are made that there is a shortage of labor in practically all of the pre-war factories and shops in the northern section of New Jersey. Many of these plants are said to be working with only 50 per cent. of their help.

On the whole there is a general feeling of optimism among the manufacturers, who have been looking ahead for the close of the war and have been arranging their plants for after war business.

The general impression seems to be that there will be no lowering of wages until next season's harvest appears in the markets. It is believed that the crops will be cheaper and there will be a decrease in the price of these commodities will come the reduction in salaries.

There was an increase of 55,000 munition workers and ship builders in Newark from 1915 to 1918. Fully one-third of these were attracted by time bonuses and overtime paid at the various plants. Now with the overtime cut off it is believed that fully one-third of this increased population is preparing to return to the trade they pursued before the war. In the Newark district there are 3,500 manufacturing concerns, 1,300 of which were working largely on war orders. Of the 150,000 persons employed in industries in the Newark district between 80,000 and 90,000, it is estimated, were engaged in war work.

The International Arms and Fuse Company in Bloomfield, manufacturers of shells, will continue business for three months. The company employs 6,500 men. What will become of the help is not known, but everybody will have the opportunity to look for other work.

Seven hundred men employed at the Haskell, N. J., works of the Du Pont Powder Company have been laid off in the last two days, and it was said at Haskell last night that by January 1 not more than fifty of the 2,500 workers would remain. The plant has been making smokeless powder for the United States Government and high explosives for the Italian Government.

It is understood that within four or five months the plant will be turned into a factory for the making of imitation leather, celluloid and such other products as belong to the same general chemical family. The cap and fuse plant of the du Ponts at Pompton Lake, where 4,000 are employed, is still proceeding under full headway.

NO SURPLUS LABOR
IN PHILADELPHIAPlenty of Work for Some
Time to Come.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 24.—Officials of the United States Employment Service here, which is playing one of the largest parts in the proposed reconstruction program along the lines which the name of the organization indicates, said the present situation stood as follows:

The absorption of labor from war industries to peace had been gradual and that there had been no unrest, nor was any anticipated.

There is no surplus of labor, and the demand by the necessities of peace time production was still greater than the supply.

Plenty of work is in sight for some time to come, and the women who have been employed in war industries were being sent back to peace time industries steadily and with complete success.

There had been no complete shutdowns as a result of the armistice, and that the cessation of war work had not become a disorganizing factor in the labor situation.

Skilled and unskilled labor were in great demand, and there would be

plenty of opportunities open for these forms of labor for some time to come. In connection with these matters, the officials said, the greatest change in the conditions among war workers was that the night work was eliminated in many instances, but that the greatest part of the night workers had been transferred to the day forces. This prevented any great movement which would throw labor on the market.

The officials also said the machinery had been created which would take care of any layoffs, and that inspectors and agents of the employment service were in touch with the various industries and were lending a ready hand to take care of the situations as they arose.

BUFFALO READY FOR PEACE.

Labor Situation Unchanged, Wages
at High Level.

BUFFALO, Nov. 24.—After the war work plans in Buffalo call for the expenditure of \$20,000,000 for municipal improvement and the comprehensive program is before the Council.

Building of all kinds has been at a standstill since the United States entered the war and when the money is available and labor and material obtainable the big contracting companies expect to have their hands full. Power projects and transportation developments planned before the war may provide employment for many men.

With the exception of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corporation, no large employer of skilled labor is laying off men in batches. Some are recruiting efficient help, notably the Pierce-Arrow Company. There has been a reduction among the forces of unskilled men, largely foreigners who did manual labor. The Lackawanna Steel Company and American Car and Foundry Company, with the Pierce-Arrow plant, seem further advanced with their peace basis plans.

Wages for unskilled labor have dropped but there has been no notable cut in the scale for skilled men and will not be immediately. There is no organized effort here to care for discharged men.

FEW WORKERS IDLE
IN NEW ENGLANDOther Industries Absorb War
Plant Employees.

BOSTON, Nov. 24.—Up to date the apprehensions of those who feared cessation of war would flood the labor market with men formerly engaged in war work seeking new jobs have proved unfounded. This is a true also of the fear of a general wage reduction. Everett W. Lord, State director of the Federal Employment Bureau, says: "There is so large a demand for labor in this State at the present moment that there is no danger of labor troubles for a long time to come, if at all."

Here and there a thousand or more hands are laid off, as in Framingham, where 1,000 workers on gas masks were let out this week; Marblehead, where some workers on airplanes were allowed to go; and the big general Electric plant in Lynn, where 1,000 or more who had been on strict war work, but these are being quickly placed in new berths. Mr. Lord, working in cooperation with the big employers of labor, has the State labor market so that he can tell at a glance where men are needed, where they are likely to be let out and in what numbers.

His plan has worked so successfully it is being copied throughout New England with notably good results. At the big Ford River and Quantum shipbuilding plants operated by Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, it was stated to-day by General Superintendent Wakeman that orders in hand would keep both plants running to capacity for a year and possibly two. At the big Watertown arsenal there has been little change save cutting down on overtime work. The same is true at the Boston Navy Yard, where Sunday work has been stopped and overtime limited to twelve hours a week.

INDIANA PLANS UNSETTLED. Conference Called to Consider Trade Readjustments.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 24.—Industries in Indiana with the coming of peace are expected to remain in existence, but in many lines of actual war work has started. A reconstruction conference of leaders of thought in every line has been called for Tuesday, and at this conference it is expected that some plan for the organization of the State to handle its reconstruction problems to best advantage will be developed.

Some shutdowns of factories at least temporarily are expected, but in all such cases the factories have devoted practically all their output to war products and are not able to make the transition from war to peace basis quickly.

No organized plan has yet been attempted to meet new conditions, and the calling of the reconstruction conference. Many war building projects have been abandoned. Practically no readjustment in wages is evident yet, and many employers will not attempt to cut back their demand for products in many lines in which shortages now exist.

ST. LOUIS PLANTS STILL SEEK MEN
Brewery Workers Hit Hard by Beer Ban.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 24.—One hundred St. Louis manufacturers employing approximately 25,000 workers who have been engaged in munition and war work exclusively for the past year have received no important cancellations to date and are still endeavoring to go in upon being mustered out of the army; in fact, even with return of the soldiers a shortage of labor is feared.

The Chamber of Commerce at a meeting this week instructed its industrial department to get in touch with employers and employees and establish a labor clearing house for the local industrial community. Employers have been asked to forward names of workers who will be let out and workers are asked to register, so that no time will be lost in placing them in positions.

The city government will submit a bond issue of \$18,000,000 to the voters

whether immigration from these classes is not going to be greatly curtailed if not practically stopped. During the war Mexicans and negroes have been tried in the breach, the first proving a failure and the second a very uncertain quantity.

Big Labor Problem.

What is worrying the heads of industries now is whether American youth can be induced to take the labor work heretofore left to the foreigner.

Whatever they may prove as citizens of self-governing nations the Czech-Slovak and Pole proved a good steel mill laborer and made a first class manual miner.

Plans are already being drawn to shift all industries to peace production gradually, and there is optimism on all sides regarding the future. Great building and other public projects are expected to be presently launched, big railroad demand is looked for shortly for locomotives, cars and other equipment, these in this country alone, and not taking into consideration the part American industry will play in rebuilding devastated Europe.

CHICAGO EXPECTS
BIG LABOR SHIFTDoubts There Will Be Many
Men Left Idle.

CHICAGO, Nov. 23.—The change from a war to a peace basis up to the present time has caused no important changes in the situation in the Chicago industrial district, which includes some of the towns like Gary, in northern Indiana.

Information obtainable here to-day is to the effect that except for a few instances, the mass of men have been released from positions which they held in the war work program.

The exceptions include the case of a large munitions manufacturing company which, it was said, had discharged between 2,000 and 3,000 men without notice. Mark Crawford, director of the United States employment service here, says that some other plants are discharging men but so far the numbers are not large.

The immediate future, however, according to Mr. Crawford, will see many more men separated from their positions. In a total of about 10,000 industrial plants in this district fully 6,000, it is estimated, have been engaged in war work, either directly under contract with the Government or indirectly through the purchase of munitions.

Mr. Crawford said to-night there is not likely to be any wide unemployment in this district as a result of the sudden cessation of the war. Agencies already are at work to prevent a wholesale discharging of men and the plants in Detroit engaged wholly or partly in war work are well over 500 mark, employing about 240,000 men or women. Many of these plants are gradually shifting to peace work. Wages in Detroit are equal to, if not higher than, any city in the country, with no prospect of decreasing.

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SEATTLE TO THRIVE
ON PEACE BASISShipbuilding and Foreign
Trade Boom Steadily.

SEATTLE, Nov. 24.—Peace has apparently given to Seattle an even greater industrial impetus. Few if any industries have shut down. This is because Seattle's principal work is shipbuilding.

Managers of twenty-three shipyards declare that while the war has not overnight made this one of the greatest steel shipbuilding centers in the world, the demand for tonnage from local plants will continue indefinitely. They say they have a sufficient number of United States Government contracts to keep them busy until 1920 and that private interests in this country, France and England, stand ready to give them large orders when Uncle Sam's business is completed.

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next April which, if ratified, will provide plenty of work in St. Louis for years. Most of the \$18,000,000 is to be spent for sewers, new streets, parks and hospital buildings.

The curtailment of war work will not affect industrial work to any great extent. There are forty or fifty shoe plants here and no cancellation of shoe orders is expected. Fifteen brick manufacturers employing 5,000 workers met the other day and reestablished a cooperative organization to take care of the increased business which is expected to follow the lifting of the Government ban on building.

DETROIT FORESEES
ERA OF PROSPERITYExpects to Shift to Peace
Work Easily.

DETROIT, Nov. 24.—No city in this country is possessed of more after war opportunities than Detroit. It is a manufacturing center and its products are so diversified it is even now ready for world trade.

During the nineteen months of war Detroit's population was increased largely. More than 40,000 laborers are still "on the job," and industries are that they will continue in other industries when the war program is finished, for there will be plenty of room for them and also for thousands of returning soldiers in the city's industrial plants. Since the armistice was signed much has been done in the way of getting back to "business as usual."

No shutdowns have occurred in any of the factory industries; in fact, the packing houses and other plants in the factory district are unable to obtain labor needed for expansion of facilities and trade.

LUMBER INDUSTRY
IN OREGON HARD HIT

Peace Otherwise Has Affected District Little.

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 24.—Peace has affected Oregon industries other than lumber very little. The lumber industry has been hit so hard that it will not recover quickly. With the closing down of Government logging camps where thousands of soldiers had been stationed getting out airplane stock work stopped suddenly.

Col. Eric P. Ekman, says the Government already has between 70,000,000 and 80,000,000 feet of cut, unused spruce lumber, which is to be sold as soon as possible. Many mills have shut down.

The wooden shipbuilding industry which may be cited as part of the lumber industry, also has been hit hard, thousands having been released from employment. Though some of these men so engaged in war work have been taken on by one or two steel shipbuilding plants which have contracts for steel vessels for the Government's merchant marine, still had the question of employment for the men ousted by peace become that Gov. Withycombe called a conference in the Oregon capital this week.

As a result plans were made by the land settlement commission to interest the Government in a gigantic nation-wide use of the returning soldiers in the subdivision and development of large tracts of land, particularly the immense acreage in the Willamette valley.

SAN FRANCISCO IS
AS BUSY AS EVERWar's Stoppage Has Had
Little Effect There.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 24.—The effect peace may have on the industries of the San Francisco district has not made itself manifest to any great extent as yet.

The greatest war industry of the district was shipbuilding, and there is no indication that this will experience any great immediate change as the result of the war's end. The number of men employed in this industry is

probably between 75,000 and 100,000 and thus far there has been no dejection from their ranks into peace industries.

In the explosives plants about San Francisco Bay there will be reduction in the number of employees, but it is calculated that this will not affect more than 1,000 men, mostly unskilled laborers, who will find ready employment in the interior of the state in agricultural pursuits which have been expanded on during the war. Only one war project was abandoned as an outcome of the armistice—the Liberty shipyards at Oakland harbor, which was designed by the Government for the construction of wooden ships. More than a million dollars had been expended on the enterprise when Washington ordered work stopped and the project abandoned. Several thousand men were thrown out of employment, but other shipbuilding enterprises offered a ready opening for their services.

KANSAS CITY CAN'T
GET ENOUGH MEN
Big Building Programme to
Be Resumed.

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 24.—Removal of the Government ban on the use of building materials was the signal here for resumption of vast building operations which were under way or planned when the ban was placed in effect.

Labor is very scarce in Kansas City, women filling many places formerly held by men. This city has had few war contracts of any kind, consequently the cancellation of orders throughout the country will have little effect on the situation here other than to give the city a chance to obtain labor released from war plants elsewhere.

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